What is claimed is:

1.   A data processing apparatus, comprising a database
that holds more than one component, and applying said
component to a read file and executing processing,

5   wherein said database includes a type determining
function that determines a component suitable for the
processing based on file information of the file.

2.   The data processing apparatus according to claim
10   1, wherein every component holds said type determining
function inside.

3.   The data processing apparatus according to claim
1, wherein said database holds a determining function
15   entry that indicates a reference of said type determining
function.

4.   The data processing apparatus according to claim
3, wherein said determining function entry is associated
20   and held with a component in a pair of one and one.

5.   The data processing apparatus according to claim
3, further comprising determining means for searching
out components suitable for processing from among
25   components held in said database,

          wherein said determining means reads said
determining function entry from said database, reads the

type determining function that said determining function entry indicates as a reference, and applies file information of the file subject to the processing to said determining function and determines said file
5   information.

6.   The data processing apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a processing section that implements intended processing by reading and assembling
10   the components searched out by said determining means,
      wherein control means, comprised in said processing section, reads and notifies file information of an output file of said components to said determining means and enables selection of components suitable for next
15   processing of said output file.

7.   The data processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a component configuration database that memorizes configuration patterns of components
20   configured earlier, and configuration pattern search means that searches out a configuration pattern suitable for the processing from among the memorized configuration patterns.

25   8.   The data processing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising download means that can be connected to a database server via a network, said database server

storing components,

wherein, when the components included in a configuration pattern do not exist in said database, said download means acquires necessary components from said database server.

9. The data processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said download means acquires said necessary components from a recording medium that is connected to said data processing apparatus and that accommodates components.

10. The data processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein, when said download means acquires a new component, the acquired component is stored in said database, and information that indicates a storage destination for said component is held in said component configuration database.

11. A data processing method for use of a data processing apparatus comprising a database holding a type determining function that determines whether or not a component is suitable for processing data of interest, and a determining function entry that outputs said determining function as a reference, said method comprising:

a first step of reading said determining function

entry from said database;

a second step of reading said type determining function that said determining function entry indicates as a reference from said database;

5   a third step of applying information of data subject to the processing to said type determining function and obtaining a result indicating applicability or non-applicability,

wherein the first through third steps are repeated

10   until a component suitable for the processing is selected.

12.   A data processing program for selecting a component suitable for processing data of interest from a database, said program driving a computer to execute the steps of:

15   reading a determining function entry that outputs a reference of a type determining function that determines whether or not a component is suitable for processing data of interest;

reading the type determining function that said

20   determining function entry indicates as the reference; and

applying information of the data subject to the processing to said type determining function and obtaining a result indicating applicability or

25   non-applicability.